



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS  
City of Los Angeles

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**MEDIA ALERT**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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**Department of Cultural Affairs and United Nations Environment  
Programme Join to Celebrate World Environment Day.**

Canoga Park, CA- The studio in the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center may look like a landfill now, but the many bags of trash stacked in the space are being used as art materials in an unexpected new exhibition. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has selected the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center, a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA), to host a World Environment Day Celebration.

A Free Family Arts Festival on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008, will launch the opening of a dynamic *Installation* of artwork by children envisioning environmental awareness at the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center. This is the first time the United Nations Environment Programme has joined with the resources of the Department of Cultural Affairs and the community of families and educators which make up the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center. The colorful *Installation* features a rich display of artwork created by children including a sculpture made from recycled materials and an accompanying multi-media presentation. The theme chosen this year by UNEP is "Kick the Carbon Habit."

Stuart Vaughan, Director of the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center, points out that environment change can add new dimensions to ways young people express creativity through art: "Kids are serious about their art making, and are more than capable of tackling this important subject."

John Paul Thornton, Art Education Coordinator with the Canoga Park Youth Arts Center, sees the need for teaching global climate change: "If we expect our children to grow up to become positive agents for environmental healing, then they must be empowered with hope and the ability to dream and take creative risks. Art can explore aspects of nature, balance and imbalance, visions of the future and ideas of individual voice," says Thornton.

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The Family Art Festival and Exhibition will be held on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Canoga Park Youth Arts Center is a facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs. The Center is located at 7222 Remmet Ave, in Canoga Park, CA, 91303. For further information please call 818-346-7099.

UNEP is the United Nations Environmental Programme. Their mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations. Their selected theme this year is "Kick the Carbon Habit." For more information about the UNEP visit the website [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org).

**ABOUT DCA**

The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) serves as a leader to generate and support high quality arts and cultural experiences for Los Angeles residents and visitors. DCA also advances the social and economic impact of the arts and assures access to arts and cultural experiences through grant making, marketing, public and community arts programming, arts education, and creating partnerships with artists and arts and cultural organizations in every community in the City of Los Angeles.

DCA grants \$3.4 million annually to over 300 artists and nonprofit arts organizations and awards the Artist-in-Residence (A.I.R.) and City of Los Angeles (C.O.L.A.) Individual Artist Fellowships. It provides arts and cultural programming in numerous Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, and several arts and education programs for young people. The Department operates two historic monuments, directs public art projects, and manages the City's Arts Development Fee, Art Collection, and Murals Program. DCA markets the City's cultural events through development and collaboration with strategic partners, design and production of creative promotional materials, and management of the culturela.org website.

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